

DELTA PARK

WET FEET WANTED

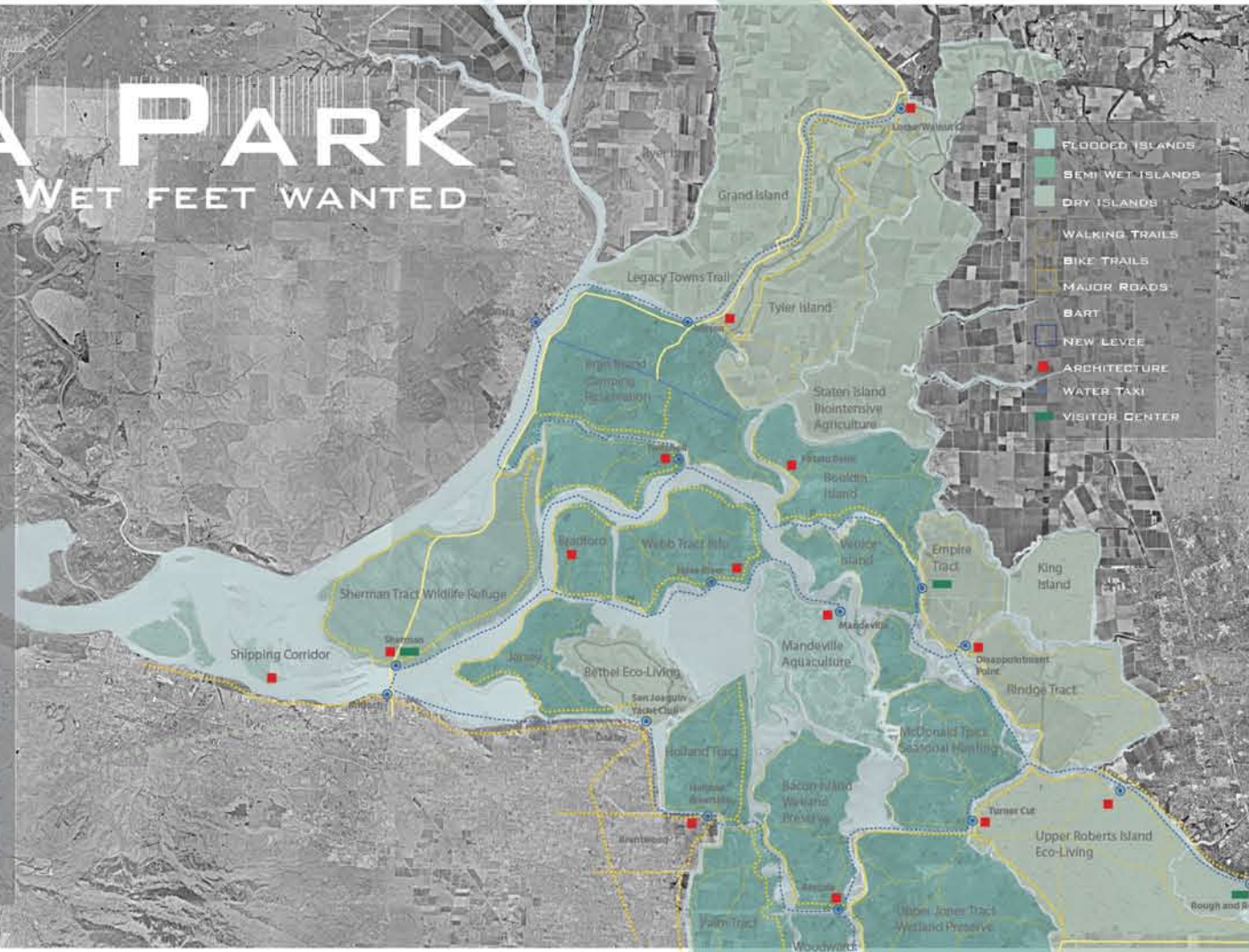
Experience Your Delta

As the sun rises above the tule fog and the remains of the morning evaporate before your eyes, you realize the thousands of birds around you are much closer than your ears led you to believe. It's hard to imagine you are immersed in one of the nation's largest wetland parks in one of the largest metropolitan centers of the country.

Located at the confluence of California's Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers lies the Delta Park comprised of over 200,000 acres. Managed under the guidance of the Delta Park Conservancy, the Delta Park is a convergence of ecosystems, historic towns, and model eco-living communities.

The Park offers countless recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities. Explore the inner sanctuaries of the flooded wildlife refuges with guided experts. Bike hundreds of miles of levee trails, which lead to quiet overlooks and historic Legacy Towns. Learn how to windsurf in some of the best conditions on the West Coast. Admire your surroundings and simply revel in the restorative quality of your Delta Park.

Come, experience your Delta!



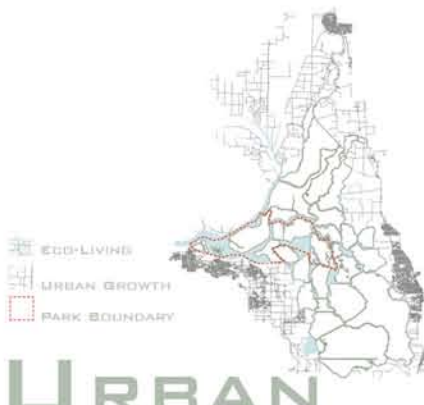
1-5 YEARS

5-20 YEARS

20-50 YEARS

FLOODED ISLANDS
SEMI-WET ISLANDS
DRY ISLANDS
PARK BOUNDARY

ISLANDS



URBAN



NETWORK

ISLANDS

Three distinct types of levee treatment unite the growing landscape of the Delta Park islands. Some existing levees are breached to allow for gradual island inundation. Others will remain completely intact serving as primary park connections, while certain perimeter levees will be rebuilt to better standards. Depending on the potential for structural damage, the depth below sea level, and the type of levee treatment, the islands are categorized as Flooded, Semi-wet, and Dry. Deep islands with weak levees are gradually flooded allowing for surrounding bands of vegetation to grow around larger water interiors. These islands serve as freshwater reservoirs maintaining water supply levels for the state of California. Moderately deep islands serve as large wetland buffers, with core areas reverting to native vegetation, allowing land-level heights to return to normal by natural processes and the accretion of organic materials. Shallower islands along the Park's perimeter are protected from seismic damage and tidal inundation by a newly constructed, reinforced levee system.

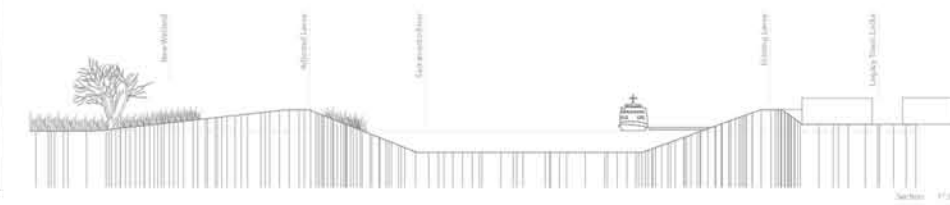
URBAN

Population growth in California is inevitable. As population centers such as Antioch, Brentwood, Tracy, Stockton, Lodi, Walnut Grove, Rio Vista, and the greater Sacramento Region thread together to form a web around the Delta, the boundaries of the park similarly grow to encompass an area proportionate to the expanding population. The Delta Park serves as a "wet heart" with riparian and wetland veins, which interdigitate with the surrounding metropolis. Newly constructed levees protect expanding urban areas surrounding the park, while new communities constructed between existing levees and new levee systems are literally raised up on seismically reinforced stilts. These communities are located on shallower perimeter islands allowing habitation to continue within the Delta in an ecological and sustainable fashion.

NETWORK

The existing Delta levee structure serves as the bones of the Park's principal access network offering miles of bicycle pathways and water access points for recreation and transportation. As the boundaries of the Delta Park grow, access to the levee system expands offering miles of recreation potential. Although the interior of the park is best explored by water, on bicycle, or on foot, the Delta Park is also car-accessible on perimeter and through roads, which connect the Delta's primary park routes to Legacy Towns and surrounding communities. The Delta is thus tied to the transit network of the Bay Area via large- and small-scale connections, which maintain the integration of its culture and landscape with the wider region.

ACCESS



Many treasures of the Delta may be seen from a car window, but the Delta truly reveals itself to those who immerse themselves in it. Miles of bicycle trails follow existing levees, while footpaths branch further into the landscape and allow for a more intimate connection to secluded park areas. Located within a growing metropolitan region, the Delta Park is easily accessible via Bay Area Regional Transit (BART) service extensions to Antioch and Brentwood, which serve as two of several Delta Park entrances. Numerous water access points throughout the Delta reinforce existing marina and recreation identities. The Delta Park serves as a gateway for the Delta Legacy Town Trail, connecting towns like Isleton, Locks, and Walnut Grove via bicycle pathways. Visitor centers are located near the Antioch entrance (Sherman Island Visitor Center), near the Stockton entrance (Rough and Ready Visitor Center), and in the core of the park (Empire Visitor Center). Most of the park is handicap accessible.

Dennis Shull, 26 years, University of Davis, History Department
June 11, 2017: Great day exploring the Legacy Town Trail. The first scheduled Water Taxi brought our group to Locke, where we continued our tour of the Delta's cultural landscapes. We learned about the significant boardwalk spaces between the buildings, which demonstrate a definite thought in fire prevention in the early 1900s. Thankfully, any danger of seismic activity in the Delta, is prevented by the newly constructed Legacy Towns Levee System.

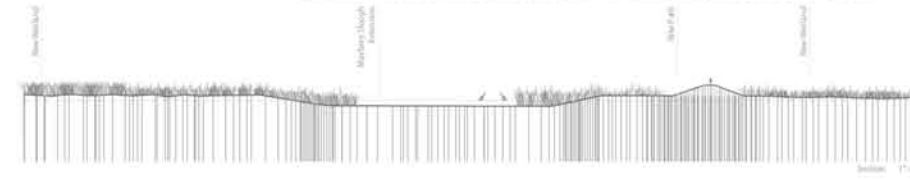


IDENTITY



The Delta Park Conservancy is a private, non-profit organization founded in 2006 in concert with the Delta Park and greater Delta Park Region under a contract with the State of California Parks and Recreation Department and as an extension of the East Bay Regional Parks District. In the same year, the Conservancy embarked on a statewide fund-raising campaign embracing the Delta's water relationship with southern California ratifying the Water Share Act passed in 2010, securing statewide funding for levee improvement projects. Thanks to the generosity of many individuals, corporations, foundations, and the State and Federal Governments, the Conservancy has raised more than \$300 million to date, transforming the Delta Park Conservancy into a model organization for disputed landscapes nationwide. The Conservancy provides for more than 85% of Delta Park's annual \$50 million operating budget and is responsible for all basic care of levee trails, water taxis, visitor center operations, hunting tours, and other park-related activities. Essential to the Park's philosophy is the preservation of location identities including existing Legacy Towns. In 2010, the Park, in association with the American Institute of Architects, launched a Delta Identity Campaign (DIC) to create innovative Delta architecture that reinforces regional identities while providing necessary programming opportunities. The unique landmarks created through this initiative serve as beacons in the landscape that identify key activity areas of the Delta.

Yoshi Mishima, 63 years, retired biologist
February 17, 2023: While kayaking around Kimball Island, part of the Sherman Island Wildlife Refuge, I saw some more Sacramento splittail (Pogonichthys macrolepidotus) during their spring migration today. It seems that every season there's an increase in species distribution and population. The efforts and actions of the Delta Park Conservancy can be seen all around us.



USE



Each year, millions of visitors from the region and beyond make the Delta Park one of the most frequently visited wetland parks in the United States. The Park's 200,000 acres include a wide range of natural landscapes. Semi-wet islands, which make up the largest part of the Park's interior, buffer areas of the landscape from surrounding development and provide diverse habitats for threatened Delta species and ecosystems, including established wetlands, inundated forests, and floodplains. These Semi-wet Islands also support a wide range of educational and recreational activities including bird watching, hunting, camping, boating, and fishing to highlight a few options. Wet Islands located close to the center of the park serve as locations for estuarine and lacustrine restoration and aquaculture. The Dry Islands along the park's perimeter are primarily areas for bio-intensive agriculture and eco-housing, while the primary shipping corridor for Stockton remains.

Jessica Herberts, 35 years, chef
October 3, 2022: We're thinking about moving to the Delta. It's one of our favorite places to vacation and we just can't seem to get enough of its endless bicycle network. There's always somewhere to go, something to do, and some place to learn about. I just discovered the Delta Park five years ago and it's one of my preferred places to go in California. It's easily accessible and all you need is a good pair of sneakers. Goodbye Tahoe!

